

# SNCO Congressional Fellowship Program

Office of Legislative Affairs

UNCLAS



# ***Marine Congressional Fellowship Program***



From its founding in 1775, the Marine Corps has maintained a close relationship with the United States Congress. An essential aspect of this relationship is the present-day Congressional Fellowship Program.

The program is a Department of Defense program, managed by the Office of the Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs and the Marine Corps Office of Legislative Affairs.

The program provides a unique opportunity for military members to work alongside senators, representatives, and congressional committees. Fellows learn about Congress through practical application and lend their experience to Congress

## **2012 House Fellowships: 10**

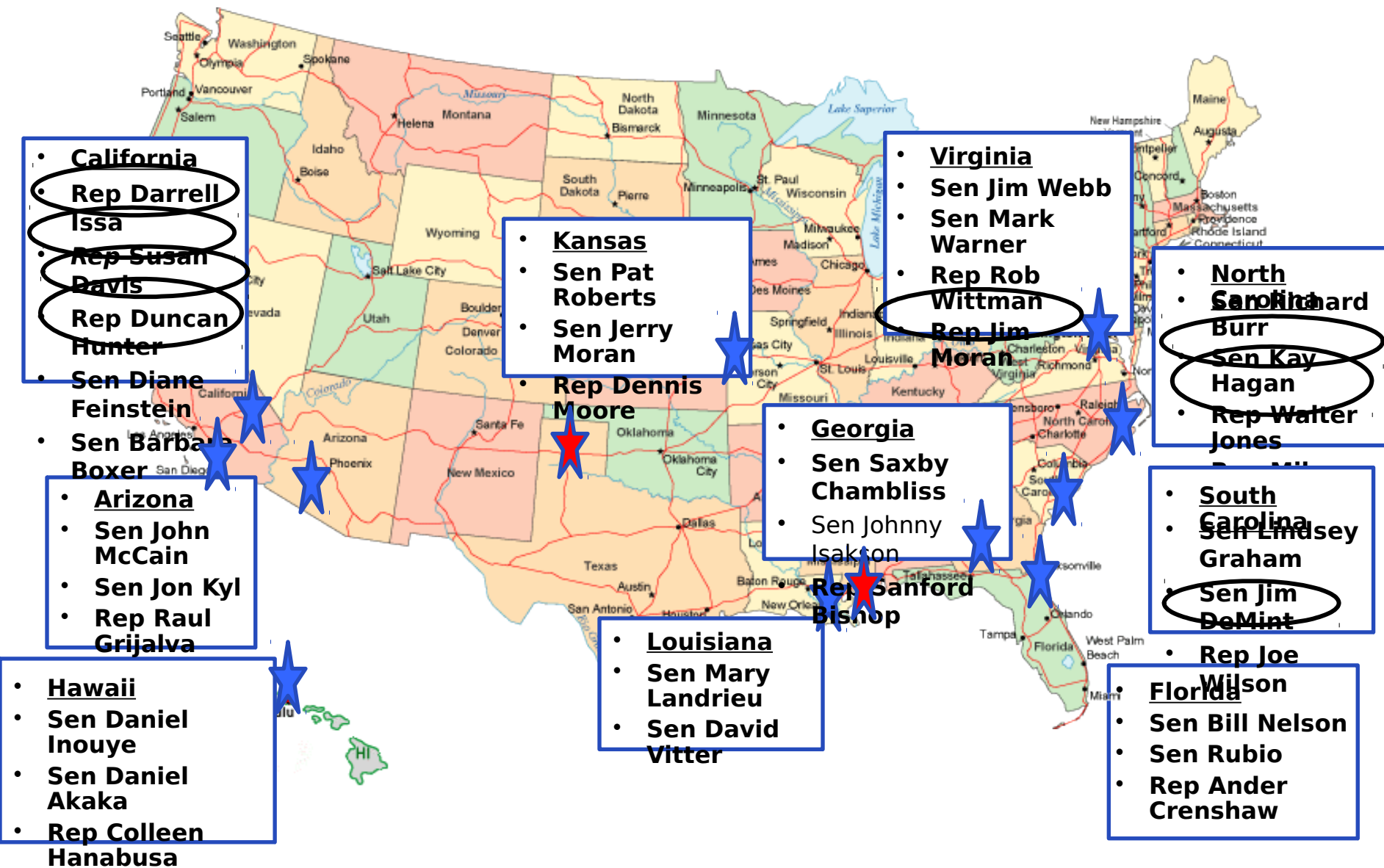
- Rep James Moran(VA); Maj Battaglia
- Rep John Kline(MN); Maj Oloughlin
- Rep Darrell Issa(CA); Capt Bahk
- Rep Walter Jones(NC); Capt Kinzler
- Rep Susan Davis(CA); Capt Oshea
- Rep Tim Ryan(OH); Capt Rajan
- Rep Duncan Hunter(CA); Capt Loomis
- Rep Mike Coffman(CO); Capt Young
- Rep Todd Akin(MO); Capt Leahy
- **Rep Joe**

## **2012 Senate Fellowships: 5**

- Sen Kay Hagan(NC); LtCol McCann
- Sen Bob Casey(PA); Maj D'Amato
- Sen Richard Blumenthal(CT); Capt Bjerke
- **Sen Joseph Lieberman(CT); GySgt Boyd**
- Sen Diane Feinstein(CA); Ms. Engelhardt



# Members With USMC





# Congressional Fellowship Program

## ~~CY09~~



### 2009 House Fellow

**Master Sergeant William “Spanky”  
Gibson**



- ❑ **Utilization Tour: Special Asst to Secretary Garcia (Asst SECNAV M&RA) Wounded Warrior Care and Transition**

### 2009 Senate Fellow

**Gunnery Sergeant Bradley Simmons  
Senator Brown (OH)**



- ❑ **PCSO to 1stBn, 5<sup>th</sup> Marines (Co 1stSgt)**



# Congressional Fellowship Program

## ~~CY10~~



### 2010 House Fellow

**Gunnery Sergeant Hector Soto-Rodriguez**  
**Office of US Congressman Victor F.**



### 2010 Senate Fellow

**Master Gunnery Sergeant William**  
**Mahoney**





# Congressional Fellowship Program

## CY11



### 2011 House Fellow

**Gunnery Sergeant Damion Jacobs**  
**Office of US Congressman Darrell Issa**



- ❑ **Utilization Tour: Special Assistant to Secretary of the Navy for Manpower and**

### 2011 Senate Fellow

**Master Sergeant Julius D. Spain Sr.**  
**Office of United States Senator Johnny**



- ❑ **Utilization Tour: Marine Corps Office of Legislative Affairs (Washington)**



# Congressional Fellowship Program

## ~~CY12~~



**2012 House Fellow**  
**MGySgt Michelle King**  
**Rep Joe Wilson(SC)**



**2012 Senate Fellow**  
**GySgt Thomas Boyd**  
**Sen Joseph Lieberman(CT)**





# Congressional Fellowship Program

## CY13



- ☐ MSgt Lee Duncan (MOS 1391)
- ☐ MSgt Kathryn Denham (MOS 7041)
- ☐ GySgt Verice Bennett (MOS 0369)





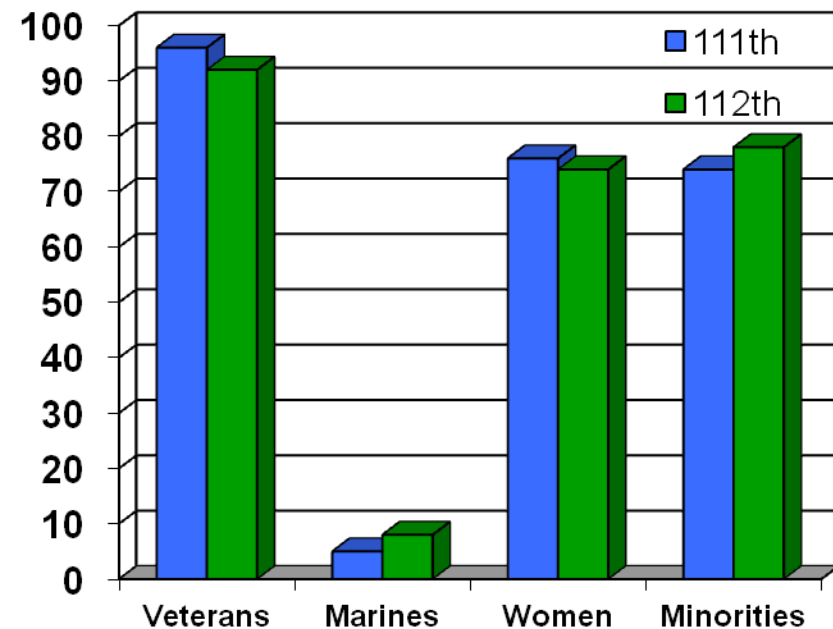
# House & Senate Composition



111<sup>th</sup>

112<sup>th</sup>

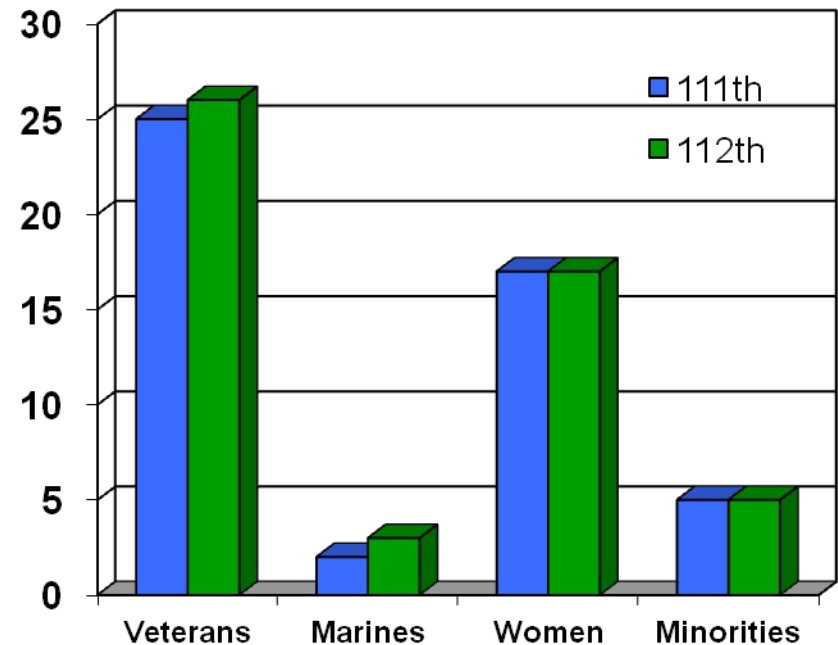
|                     |     |     |
|---------------------|-----|-----|
| <b>Republicans</b>  | 178 | 241 |
| <b>Democrats</b>    | 254 | 192 |
| <b>Independents</b> | 0   | 0   |
| <b>Vacancies</b>    | 3   | 2   |
| <b>Undecided</b>    | 0   | 0   |



111<sup>th</sup>

112<sup>th</sup>

|                     |    |    |
|---------------------|----|----|
| <b>Republicans</b>  | 41 | 47 |
| <b>Democrats</b>    | 56 | 51 |
| <b>Independents</b> | 2  | 2  |





# Operating Environment





# ***Morning Formation***



**...and they all have a  
vote**



# ***What do you Do?***

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- Advise and assist development of legislation
- Assist with hearing preparation and floor debate
- Represent Member at various meetings with constituents and attends hearings
- Assist with coordination of congressional and staff actions
- Assist in press releases and media events
- Research, development, and drafting introduction to bills



# ***Roles & Responsibilities***

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- Expectations
- Dress appropriately
- Party affiliation is irrelevant
- Network
- Knowledge
- Attend social events



# ***Accomplishments***

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- Drafted legislation for awareness of Vet benefits dealing with Post 911 GI Bill
- Major contributor in passing the Vision Scholars Act of 2009
- Assisted in legislation to add and improve the hiring of veterans
- Assisted in programs designed for amputees in transition from DOD to VA
- Researched efficiencies designed to save DOD \$150 billion over next 5 years.



# Accolades

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- “In my view he has validated the concept of assigning highly qualified SNCO’s to congressional offices as fellows”
- “Based on his performance this office will seek SNCO’s if offered”
- “More than a trusted advisor. He’s been a teacher and a friend”
- “This senior SNCO cannot be stopped”
- “I rank the MSgt as #1 of 5 military fellows who have ever worked for me during elected office”
- “He contributes immeasurably to a high public image for the Marine Corps by his participation in the activities of the House Committee on Veteran’s Affairs”



# ***Current Challenges on the Hill***

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- Sexual Assault
- Hazing and Conduct
- Force Structure Review and the size of the Corps
- Operational relevancy of the MAGTF
- Modernization: ACV, JLTV, F35B, MV-22
- Sequestration and continuous budget issues
- Women in Combat



# ***Everyday Congressional Interest***

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- **Programs - JSF, MV-22, ACV, Force Structure, Ground Tactical Vehicle Strategy, and MILCON (BEQs)**
- **Sexual Assault , Hazing, Conduct of our military members**
- **Wounded Warriors: Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder & Traumatic Brain Injury**
- **Health of the Force - Dwell and Afghanistan Drawdown**
- **Service Roles and Missions (MAGTF and Amphibious missions)**
- **Basing Issues and Depots**



# Congressional Inquiries

**OLAC Received 3634 Total Written Inquiries in 2011**

Records/Awards are by far the bulk of the total number of cases.

• 61

Command Allegations

**Base Issues: 47** (Base issues include BRAC, Barracks, Housing, Facilities, Noise Complaints)

• 65 OIF or OEF

• 164 Pay Issue

• 264 Medical Issues

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**38 Educational Inquiries and 1 DADT**

**37 Suicide, Health and Welfare**

**24 Disability Benefits are included in Medical Issues**

**9 Non-Combat Casualty cases were added to Suicide, Health and Welfare**

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PSYCHOLOGY  
LECTURE



R4J





# Criteria: SNCO Fellowship Program

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- ☐ Active Duty
- ☐ SSgt, GySgt, MSgt, MGySgt
- ☐ Time on Station Requirements prior to reporting
- ☐ Agree to remain on Active Duty for 3 years
- ☐ Health of the MOS
- ☐ **MOS and Operational Force experience**
- ☐ **OIF/OEF Deployment**
- ☐ **GySgt's must select "M" on the fitness report**



# **Package with Enclosures**



- ☐ AA Form
- ☐ Command Endorsement through first GO
- ☐ Resume with Service History (Civ Edu, Mil Edu, Decorations, and Personal Data)
- ☐ Personal Statement indicating reason for application
- ☐ RS Assessment of Applicant qualifications
- ☐ OMPF Digital Photo taken within 12 months  
(Deployed Marines may take photo in utilities)
- ☐ Privacy Act Statement
- ☐ College Transcripts (If applicable), Letters of Recommendation



# Submission Process

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- ☐ Submit completed electronic package to MMEA-85
- ☐ MMEA will screen for eligibility and provide recommendation
- ☐ All packages with MMEA recommendations are forwarded to OLA
- ☐ Senior Enlisted Board is convened to provide the most qualified SNCO's to be interviewed for selection
- ☐ OLA Selection Board is convened
- ☐ Selections are notified via MARADMIN in March with a report date in early October



# Submission Process

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## ☐ Package Submissions

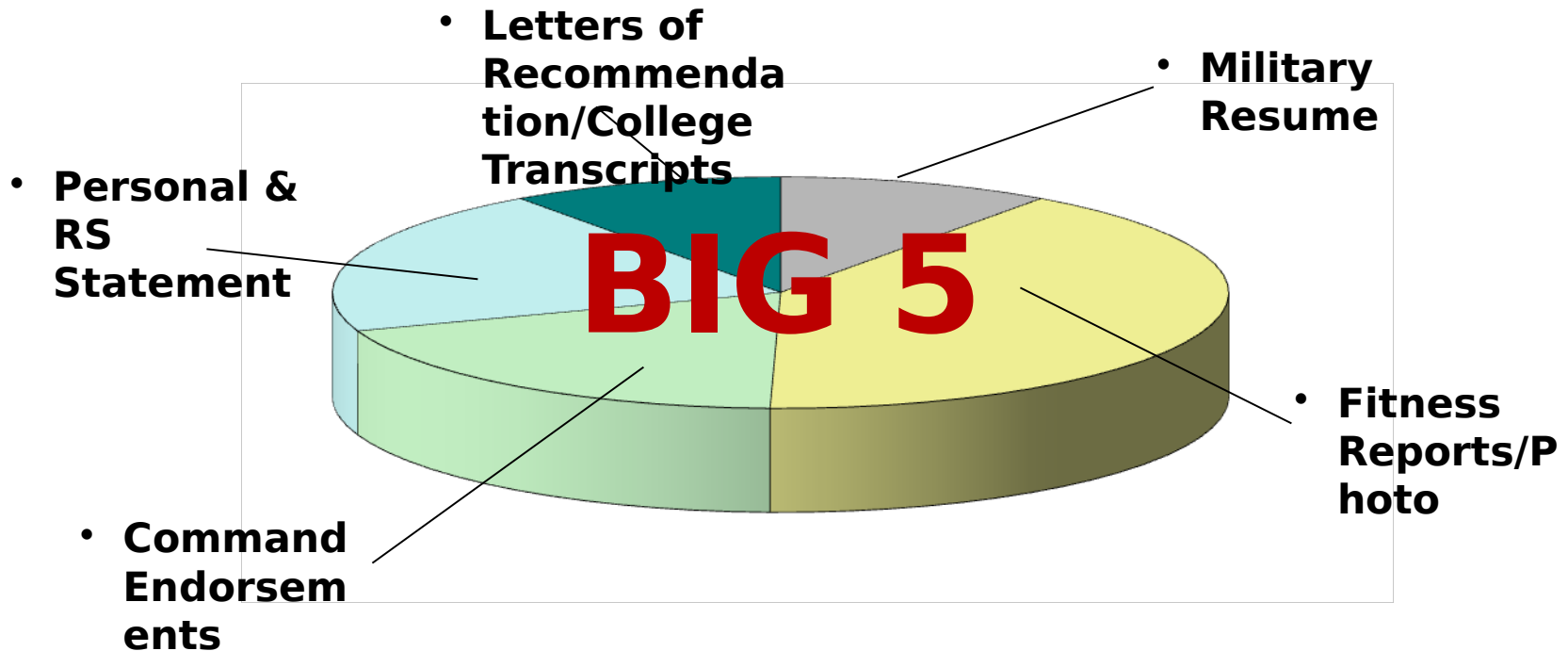
1) Electronically via a web-based application system

- <https://www.manpower.usmc.mil/cfp>
- Applications will be submitted by final endorsing authority
- Applicant can track status via website



# Package Submission

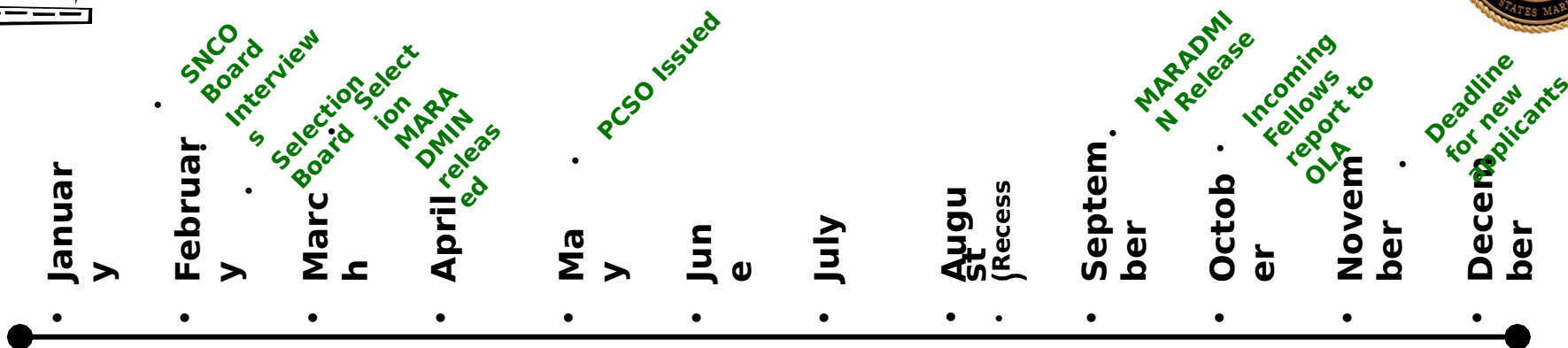
## Snapshot of the Board Priorities



**\*Selling an opportunity for an interview**



# Fellowship Cycle



- Snapping In and Office Interviews

- Fellowship tour with Member of Congress

• 2 Year Utilization Tour



# ***Utilization Tour...***



## **... Legislative Assistant/Special Asst**

OSD  
I&L  
AVN  
P&R  
OLA  
PP&O  
CMC  
M&RA  
MCCDC  
SECNAV

~~Utilization~~

**Fellowship**

**.OLA**





# ***Changes to CY12 and 13 Fellowship***

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**\*MARADMIN on the street soliciting applications for a wounded warrior SNCO for assignment within the House Veterans Affairs Committee**

**\*A 3<sup>rd</sup> SNCO was selected to participate in the CY13 Fellowship**



# ***Wounded Warrior Fellowship***

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- Combat Wounded
- Purple Heart recipient
- Remain on Active Duty(3yrs)
- Standard criteria applies



# SNCO Fellowship Stats

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- ☐ **CY 2009**
  - 68 Applications
- ☐ **CY 2010**
  - 26 Applications
- ☐ **CY 2011**
  - 17 Applications
- ☐ **CY 2012**
  - 26 Applications
- ☐ **CY 2013**
  - 41 Applications



# Office of Legislative Affairs Info



## CONGRESSIONAL FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

- The Congressional Fellowship Program offers participants the chance to work for a year as a staffer on Capitol Hill. Eligible candidates include Marine Officers (Active and Reserve components), SNCOs, and Civilian Marines. The fellowship includes three components: (1) training and education through the Georgetown Government Affairs Institute before placement, (2) work on the Hill in the personal office of a Senator or Member of Congress for a year, and (3) a two-year utilization tour immediately upon completion of the fellowship. The program exists to provide the Marine Corps with an enhanced understanding of the legislative branch of the federal government. This is vital, as the day-to-day workings of Congress affect every aspect of the Marine Corps--our budget, roles and missions, force structure, programs, military construction projects, and quality of life.
- **Officers:** Please contact LtCol Keith Kopets ([keith.kopets@usmc.mil](mailto:keith.kopets@usmc.mil)) or Capt John Schippert ([john.schippert@usmc.mil](mailto:john.schippert@usmc.mil)) at (703) 614-1686/1687.
- **SNCOs:** Please contact MGySgt Julius D. Spain Sr. ([julius.spain@usmc.mil](mailto:julius.spain@usmc.mil)) or (703) 614-1686/1687.
- **Civilian Marines:** Please contact Ms. Patricia Williams at Marine Corps University ( [patricia.williams1@usmc.mil](mailto:patricia.williams1@usmc.mil)) at (703) 784-2788.
- **Helpful Links**
- MARADMIN 421/12 Commandant's Professional Intermediate-Level Education Board (CPIB)  
MARADMIN 352/12 Commandant's Career-Level Education Board (CCLEB)  
**[Officer Sample Application](#)** **[SNCO Sample Application](#)** **[SNCO Fellowship Brief](#)**  
**[Leatherneck Article](#)** The link below is for use of the final endorsing authority in the chain of command to submit electronic packages:
- **SUBMIT E-PACKAGE**
- **Important Dates for Active Reserve Officers and SNCOs** **2012 September:** CY14 CFP MARADMIN for SNCOs and AR officers released  
**2012 October-December:** CY14 CFP application period for SNCOs and AR Officers  
**2013 January:** Selection Board convenes for SNCOs and AR officers  
**2013 March:** Selection board results published via MARADMIN



# Questions?



OLA is the conduit between the Hill and the Corps... We speak with many voices... but there is always one theme. Congressional Fellows are integral to the shelf life of the